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ANNUAL REPORT

OF

**South Carolina Department
of Veterans Affairs**

FISCAL YEAR 1978-79

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Submitted by

**Hoyt B. Hill, Jr., Director
S.C. Department of Veterans Affairs
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina**

September 1, 1979

ANNUAL REPORT

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FISCAL YEAR 1978-79

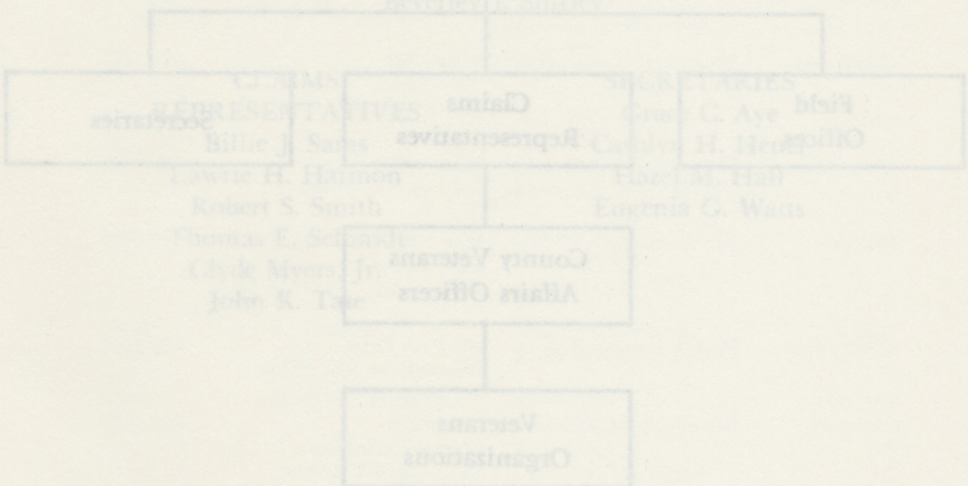
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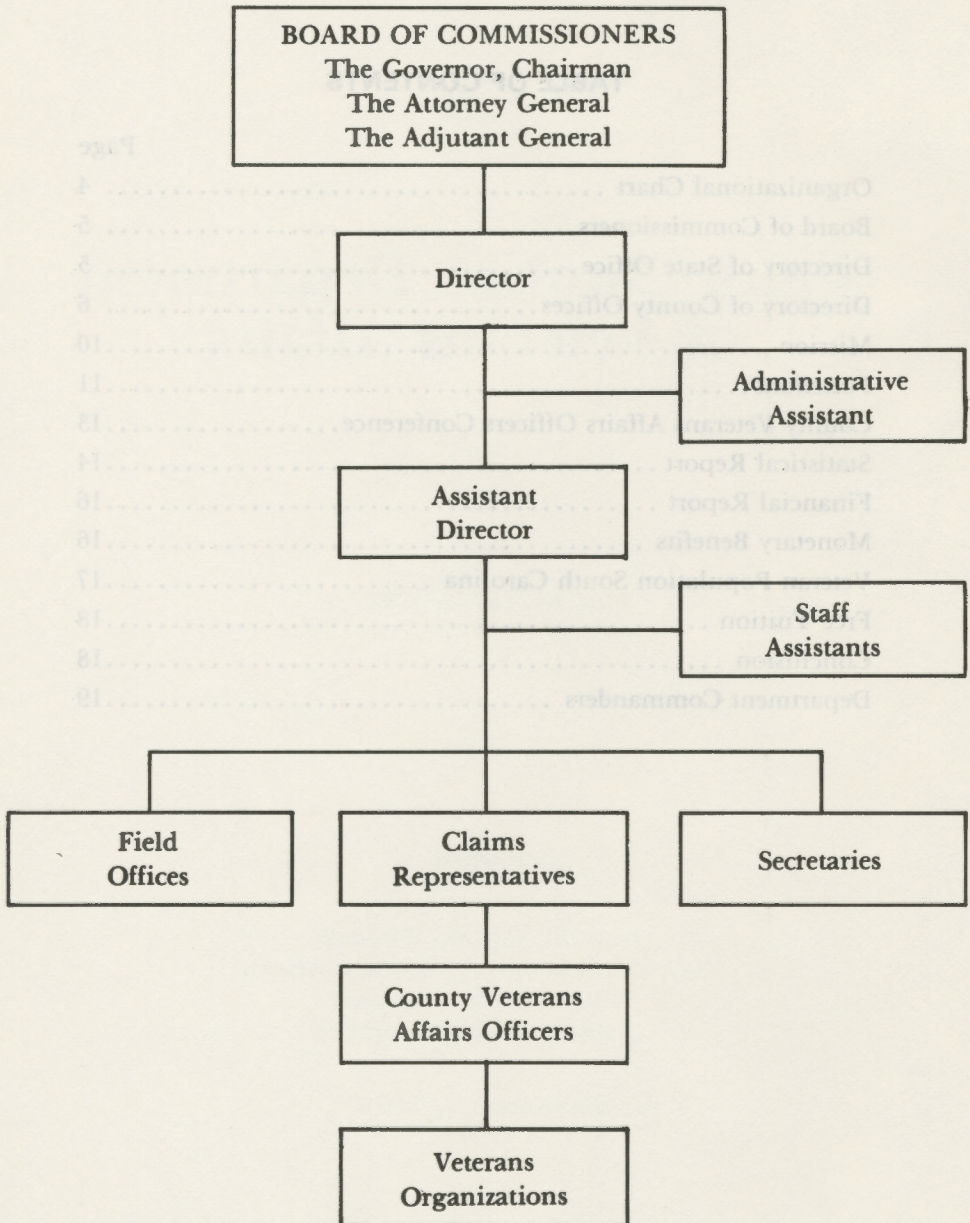
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**ORGANIZATIONAL CHART
OF
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

CHAIRMAN

Honorable Richard W. Riley
Governor of South Carolina

Honorable Daniel R. McLeod
Attorney General
of South Carolina

Honorable Robert L. McGrady
Adjutant General
of South Carolina

DIRECTORY OF STATE OFFICE

Location: 1205 Pendleton Street, Columbia, S.C. 29201
Telephone No.: 758-2607

DIRECTOR

Hoyt B. Hill, Jr.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Grady D. Majors

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Linda S. Hargreaves

FIELD OFFICE SUPERVISOR

Jack M. Tiller

STAFF ASSISTANTS

Lettie W. Rogers

Beverley J. Shirley

CLAIMS

REPRESENTATIVES

Billie J. Sams

Lawrie H. Harmon

Robert S. Smith

Thomas E. Schmidt

Clyde Myers, Jr.

John K. Tate

SECRETARIES

Grace C. Aye

Carolyn H. Heuer

Hazel M. Hall

Eugenia G. Watts

DIRECTORY OF COUNTY OFFICES

County	Officer	Location	Telephone No.
Abbeville	Charlie C. Murdock	Room 205 County Courthouse Abbeville, S.C. 29620	459-2608
Aiken	Lucien J. Hockman	828 Richland St., West Aiken, S.C. 29801	649-3481 Ex. 191
Allendale	George H. Kearse	703 Pine St. Allendale, S.C. 29180	584-2942
Anderson	Fred S. Winstead	1621 N. Main St. Anderson, S.C. 29621	224-3901
Bamberg	B. Monroe Hiers	109 North Street P.O. Box 416 Bamberg, S.C. 29003	245-2492
Barnwell	Douglas Gene Rowell	T. Edward Richardson Bldg. Highway 278, West P.O. Box 871 Barnwell, S.C. 29812	259-7161 Ex. 20
Beaufort	C.B. Epps, Jr.	1713 Prince St. P.O. Box 97 Beaufort, S.C. 29902	524-4444 Ex. 344
Berkeley	Joseph R. West	334 East Main Street P.O. Box 1241 Moncks Corner, S.C. 29461	899-2222
Calhoun	Eldred S. Robinson	Agriculture Building St. Matthews, S.C. 29135	874-3816
Charleston	Thomas R. Johnson, Sr.	Room 322 The Center Charleston, S.C. 29403	577-5111
Cherokee	Clarence L. Byars	County Courthouse Gaffney, S.C. 29340	489-5172
Chester	J.B. Cranford	War Memorial Bldg. P.O. Box 957 Chester, S.C. 29706	385-6157
Chesterfield	Harlan Campbell	101 Park Drive Chesterfield, S.C. 29709	623-2482
Clarendon	Norman J. McFaddin	Room 203 County Courthouse Manning, S.C. 29107	435-2527

County	Officer	Location	Telephone No.
Colleton	G. Herman Kinard	Agriculture Building P.O. Box 627 Walterboro, S.C. 29488	549-1412
Darlington	Clarence H. Jordan, Jr.	County Courthouse Darlington, S.C. 29532	393-1051
Dillon	George M. Pullie	City-County Office Bldg. Dillon, S.C. 29536	774-4133
Dorchester	George W. Thomas	200 Raysor St. P.O. Box 661 St. George, S.C. 29477	563-2331 Ext. 216
Edgefield	Betty H. Sexton	County Courthouse P.O. Box 5 Edgefield, S.C. 29824	637-3224
Fairfield	Charles A. Medlin	117 East Washington St. P.O. Box 456 Winnsboro, S.C. 29180	635-4131
Florence	Mrs. Etta A. Jaillette	City-County Complex Box T Florence, S.C. 29501	665-3045
Georgetown	Mrs. Maria H. Padgett	County Office Building P.O. Box 306 Georgetown, S.C. 29440	546-7734
Greenville	John W. Fortner	1200 Pendleton St. Greenville, S.C. 29601	298-8698
Greenwood	Thomas E. Fish	Room 108 County Courthouse P.O. Box 441 Greenwood, S.C. 29646	229-5500
Hampton	Perry L. Chisolm	B.T. DeLoach Office Bldg. P.O. Box 476 Hampton, S.C. 29924	943-2258
Horry	A. David Altman	County Health Center P.O. Box 385 Conway, S.C. 29526	248-9021
Jasper	J.E. Horton, Jr.	County Courthouse Ridgeland, S.C. 29936	726-8940
Kershaw	Harold R. Truesdale	Room 225 County Courthouse P.O. Box 691 Camden, S.C. 29020	432-4096

County	Officer	Location	Telephone No.
Lancaster	Ward M. Faulkenberry	County Courthouse P.O. Box 282 Lancaster, S.C. 29720	283-2469
Laurens	Charles T. Knight	Courthouse Annex P.O. Box 193 Laurens, S.C. 29360	984-4041
Lee	John Z. King	Lee County Courthouse P.O. Box 461 Bishopville, S.C. 29010	484-5341 Ex. 254
Lexington	Robert S. Powell	219 E. Main St. Memorial Bldg. Lexington, S.C. 29072	359-4225
McCormick	T.C. Faulkner, Jr.	County Office Building McCormick, S.C. 29835	465-2212
Marion	Walter D. Byrd	101 West Court Street Marion, S.C. 29571	423-6732
Marlboro	Frank S. Ward	County Courthouse P.O. Box 401 Bennettsville, S.C. 29512	479-2651
Newberry	Allen W. Morrison	1306 Hunt St. P.O. Box 217 Newberry, S.C. 29108	276-7059
Oconee	Harrison E. Orr	Law Enforcement Center South Church St. Walhalla, S.C. 29691	638-2214
Orangeburg	James F. Haynes	155 Wall St. Orangeburg, S.C. 29115	534-6484
Pickens	C. Carl Pilgrim	County Courthouse P.O. Box 451 Pickens, S.C. 29671	878-4778
Richland	John E. Brewer	Room 279 2020 Hampton Street Columbia, S.C. 29204	254-2382
Saluda	Billy C. Coleman	101 West Church St. Saluda, S.C. 29138	445-2184
Spartanburg	M. Frank Edwards	Room 159 County Courthouse Spartanburg, S.C. 29301	585-4811 Ex. 266
Sumter	Harold S. Iseman	County Courthouse Rm. 100 Sumter, S.C. 29150	775-2346 Ex. 230

County	Officer	Location	Telephone No.
Union	Robert T. Eubanks	County Courthouse Union, S.C. 29379	427-3462
Williamsburg	W. J. Small, Jr.	Office #6 Courthouse Square Kingstree, S.C. 29556	354-6352
York	Earl B. Gregory	County Office Building P.O. Box 11114 Rock Hill, S.C. 29730	327-2956

MISSION

The Department of Veterans Affairs was originally created in 1927, as the State Service Bureau, by an Act of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina for the purpose "of assisting all ex-servicemen, regardless of the wars in which their service may have been rendered, in filing, presenting and prosecuting to final determination all claims which they have for money compensation, hospitalization, training and insurance benefits under the terms of federal legislation relative thereto."

The original Act was amended in 1945 by providing for a County Service Officer (now County Veterans Affairs Officer) in each of the forty-six counties in the state and restating the purpose, as amended, "to ensure stabilization and coordination of the service work for and in behalf of the war veterans and ex-servicemen and women of South Carolina, in order that they may be guaranteed the maximum benefits granted by laws enacted by the National Congress."

These services are extended to eligible dependents, including parents, widows, children and orphans of war veterans and ex-servicemen and women.

There are approximately 332,000 living veterans in South Carolina as of June 30, 1979, and as our veterans become older, more and more of them become eligible for increased service connected disability payments or non-service pension payments. Also, the death of a veteran usually results in a claim being filed by his survivor, or survivors. Our ranks are additionally being swelled by our newly discharged veterans and retirees of the Regular Service.

It is impossible for our claims personnel to know everything about all of the benefits that may be available to veterans, their dependents, beneficiaries, widows and orphans, but we must be able to know where to find the answers. Periodic meetings sponsored by this Agency are held with our County Veterans Affairs Officers each year to keep them abreast of the changing laws and benefits available. These meetings are instructed by the personnel in this Agency and by technicians and officials from the Veterans Administration in Columbia and Washington.

The necessity for personal assistance to veterans in filing and pursuing claims and a continuing information program results from the legal principle that no veterans' benefits are awarded automatically—All Must Be Applied For. The Veterans Administration is

not a "hand-out" agency as all claims allowed must be justified; hence, skill and knowledge in service work comes into being when we know what evidence is needed to bring about the favorable decision.

We believe that our record in serving South Carolina veterans, their dependents and survivors is equal to any in the United States. The Veterans Administration does have authority to resolve benefit of reasonable doubt, based on all available evidence, in adjudicating cases and we are, therefore, able to have many "close" cases allowed on that basis.

FUNCTIONS

The primary function of this Department, and the majority of our time is spent, in working with and supervising our forty-six County Veterans Affairs Officers in helping them with individual cases in their respective counties.

Other major functions performed by the Department of Veterans Affairs in accordance with the law are as follows:

1. Assist veterans, their families and survivors in initiating, filing and prosecuting claims.
2. Represent veterans before the VA Rating Boards and the Board of Appeals.
3. Publish timely informational bulletins on technical rules and regulations relating to veterans' benefits.
4. Assist and cooperate with all veterans organizations in their work.
5. Conduct Veterans Affairs Officers Schools to instruct in veterans benefits.
6. Maintain complete files on all veterans whom we assist.
7. Assist similar agencies in other states in securing evidence needed in the development of claims.
8. Assist veterans insofar as possible in securing Social Security, Welfare, and related benefits.
9. Assist survivors and morticians in securing burial benefits.
10. Assist all public officials in aiding constituents on veterans affairs.

11. Assist legislators and others in appropriate veterans legislation.
12. Perform a humanitarian service in counseling disabled veterans, veterans' widows, dependent parents and orphans in complete realization of veterans benefits as they best apply in individual cases.
13. Assist veterans in filing applications for review of discharges and in obtaining disability retirement or an increase in disability retirement.
14. Assist in having veterans admitted to the VA Hospitals in Columbia, Charleston, Augusta and other adjacent areas.

A great amount of time is spent by our office personnel in reviewing records at the VA Regional Office, and that work must be done carefully and meticulously, since all of the facts must be known in each case that we handle if we are to expect to receive a favorable decision. We have hearings each day before the VA Rating Boards and much time is consumed in personal interviews, in counseling and in letter writing.

Claimants must be advised through their County Veterans Affairs Officers, or directly, of what can be done, if anything, and what evidence is necessary to establish a VA claim for monetary benefits. Such work is highly technical and a thorough knowledge of VA regulations and applicable legislation is absolutely essential.

In addition to representing claimants and supervising the work of forty-six County Veterans Affairs Officers in connection with VA compensation and pension claims, which is our principle work, we must have knowledge of the many other facets of veterans benefits such as GI training, GI insurance, VA hospitalization, Civil Service Preference, military hospital treatment, PX privileges, the different types of military retirement pay, War Orphans training, outpatient treatment, reimbursement of unauthorized medical expenses, dental treatment, burial in national and VA cemeteries, and a knowledge of South Carolina State legislation as it affects veterans.

The demands for our services come not only from County Veterans Affairs Officers, but by request directly from veterans themselves throughout the state, their dependents and survivors, plus requests from elected public officials in behalf of their constituents.

We also find it necessary to deal constantly with other federal

agencies, both locally and in Washington, and at other important government installations over the country. Many contacts by correspondence and telephone with other state agencies are made at frequent intervals. This activity involves a wide variety of subjects, but they are concerned with some problem of vital interest to the person we are trying to serve.

COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICERS CONFERENCE

In October, 1978, the annual conference on Income-Questionnaires was sponsored by this office for our County Veterans Affairs Officers and their staffs.

In addition to our county personnel, representatives from the major Veterans Organizations were present along with officials from the Veterans Administration Hospitals at Columbia, Charleston, and Augusta.

One of the most time consuming, seasonal functions of this Department is assisting pensioners in filing income questionnaires which are required by the Veterans Administration each year. The laws and regulations of reporting income for pension purposes are constantly changing, thus a meeting such as this is an essential part of our work.

Officials of the Veterans Administration Regional Office here in Columbia were in charge of giving instructions for the completion of Income Questionnaires.

ITINERANT SERVICES

This Agency has regular itinerant service to the Veterans Hospitals at Columbia, Charleston and Augusta in addition to itinerant service to the S.C. State Hospital where there are approximately 500 veterans and State Park which always has from 10 to 20 veterans in residence.

STATISTICAL REPORT

The following is a report of the number of cases and types of services rendered by the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs and the forty-six County Veterans Affairs Officers during FY: 1978-1979.

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Claims:

Compensation, Pension, Education, Insurance and Reopened	3,654
Correction of Discharge/Records	6
Correspondence:	
Letters Dictated/Typed	12,362
Form Preparation	4,210
Hearings Conducted	185
Interviews	6,441

Mail:

Incoming and Outgoing	46,347
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Telephone Calls:

Incoming and Outgoing	47,589
VA Files Reviewed	2,379

Visits To:

CVAO's, Hospital Wards, VA Hospitals, VA Regional Office	1,075
Consultations	1,034

Files:

Requisitioned, Received, Returned	12,508
Filed and Pulled	31,777
New Files/File Cards Made and Filed	4,657

Legislative Material:

Calendars, Journals, Bills, Files for Bills	1,141
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Miscellaneous:

Articles and Deaths Clipped from Newspapers	774
Miscellaneous Reports	205
Visitors Received	4,247
Conferences Attended	10
Meetings Attended	57

FORTY-SIX COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICERS

Office Contacts	369,876
Letters and Communications Received	403,052
Official Visits to VA Installations, Department of Veterans Affairs and other points outside County.	2,266
Miles traveled on official business	408,828
Compensation Claims prepared, reopened, and appealed	7,604
D.I.C. claims prepared for dependents	1,368
Pension Claims:	
NSC-PT disability and death pension claims for dependents	7,112
Insurance applications, claims, etc.	5,720
Applications for hospital treatment	8,794
Requests for payment of burial expenses	7,120
Applications for GI education and training	3,990
Veterans personally conveyed to VA Hospitals	916
Applications for Correction of Military Records and/or Discharge Change	1,920

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 1978-1979

Expenditures		
Personal Services		237,933
Operating Expenses		
Contractual Services	16,190	
Supplies	7,093	
Fixed Charges & Contributions	20,841	
Equipment	<u>7,724</u>	51,848
Operation of County Offices		414,941
Veterans Organizations		30,340
Compensation Plan Increments		3,961
Employer Contributions	38,194	
TOTAL Expenditures		<u>777,217</u>

MONETARY BENEFITS

The following is an estimated report of the monetary benefits received by the veterans and the dependent survivors of deceased veterans in the State of South Carolina for the fiscal year July 1, 1978 to June 30, 1979.

Compensation:

Living Veterans	\$ 62,820,010
Dependents of Deceased Veterans	<u>19,071,325</u>

\$ 81,891,335

Pension:

Living Veterans	\$ 41,178,210
Dependents of Deceased Veterans	<u>24,791,862</u>

\$ 65,970,072

Burial Allowances \$ 3,011,389

Educational Benefits 75,508,000

Auto Grants \$ 261,816

Loans:

Direct	\$ 40,901
Guaranteed	\$232,191,998
Homes for Paraplegics	<u>\$ 108,990</u>

Total Excluding Guaranteed Loan \$ 149,891

Medical Services and Administration Costs \$ 60,960,847

Grand Total Less Guaranteed Loans \$287,753,350

**ESTIMATED VETERAN POPULATION
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
JUNE 30, 1979**

<i>County</i>	<i>Total Veterans</i>
ABBEVILLE	2,677
AIKEN	12,948
ALLENDALE	788
ANDERSON	15,262
BAMBERG	1,358
BARNWELL	1,764
BEAUFORT	5,457
BERKELEY	6,942
CALHOUN	975
CHARLESTON	34,343
CHEROKEE	5,116
CHESTER	3,496
CHESTERFIELD	3,581
CLARENDON	1,982
COLLETON	3,164
DARLINGTON	6,442
DILLON	2,646
DORCHESTER	3,682
EDGEFIELD	1,412
FAIRFIELD	2,039
FLORENCE	10,333
GEORGETOWN	3,269
GREENVILLE	36,780
GREENWOOD	6,610
HAMPTON	1,579
HORRY	8,756
JASPER	1,087
KERSHAW	4,597
LANCASTER	5,748
LAURENS	6,162
LEE	1,488
LEXINGTON	14,577
MARION	3,057
MARLBORO	2,314
McCORMICK	684
NEWBERRY	3,838
OCONEE	5,478

ORANGEBURG	7,201
PICKENS	7,999
RICHLAND	33,480
SALUDA	1,660
SPARTANBURG	24,527
SUMTER	7,574
UNION	3,496
WILLIAMSBURG	2,147
YORK	11,485
TOTAL	332,000
VETERANS RECEIVING SERVICE	
CONNECTED COMPENSATION	23,376
VETERANS DRAWING NONSERVICE	
CONNECTED PENSION	15,729
WIDOWS RECEIVING SERVICE	
CONNECTED DEATH BENEFITS	5,621
WIDOWS RECEIVING NONSERVICE	
CONNECTED DEATH BENEFITS	19,878

FREE TUITION

This agency administers the Free Tuition Program for the children of certain veterans under the provisions of Section 59-111-20 of the 1971 Code of Laws, as amended.

During the last seven fiscal years, a total of 2,142 applications have been approved for Free Tuition for all colleges, technical schools or technical institutions and the number of each fiscal year is listed below:

1978-79	1,018
1977-78	826
1976-77	619
1975-76	428
1974-75	321
1973-74	99
1972-73	50
1971-72	25

It has also been a pleasure for this agency to work with the fine cooperation of the Commissioners: Honorable Richard W. Riley Governor; Honorable J. Eston Marchant, The Adjutant General; and Honorable Daniel R. McLeod, The Attorney General.

**1979-80
DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS
OF VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS**

	Telephone Number
Mr. William Jennings Bryan Dorn Department Commander The American Legion Department of South Carolina Barrett House, Route 1 Greenwood, S.C. 29646	799-1992
Mr. E. Donald Smith Department Commander Disabled American Veterans Department of South Carolina 2992 Shadeland Circle Florence, S.C. 29501	787-0202
Mr. Harry M. Faris Department Commander Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of South Carolina 704 South Main St. Clover, S.C. 29710	222-3457
Mr. W. L. (Bill) Mackey Department Commander AMVETS Department of South Carolina 46 Trailwood Dr. Charleston, S.C. 29405	552-5125
Mr. C. F. Odom Department Commander Veterans of W.W. I of the U.S.A., Inc. Department of South Carolina 3 Berkley Avenue, San Souci Greenville, S.C. 29609	233-8424